

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
17 July 2003 (17.07.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 03/058195 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G01N 1/00**

William [CA/US]; 986 Briar Glen Lane, Woodbury, MN 55125 (US).

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/40949

(22) International Filing Date:  
23 December 2002 (23.12.2002)

(74) Agents: **GRAM, Christopher, D.** et al.; Office of Intellectual Property Counsel, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US).

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/344,857 31 December 2001 (31.12.2001) US

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT (utility model), AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ (utility model), CZ, DE (utility model), DE, DK (utility model), DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE (utility model), EE, ES, FI (utility model), FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK (utility model), SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY** [US/US]; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US).

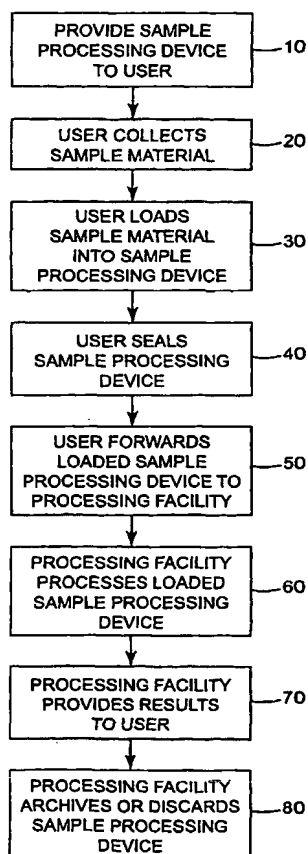
(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **BEDINGHAM,**

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS OF PROCESSING SAMPLE PROCESSING DEVICES



(57) Abstract: The methods of the present invention may include some or all of the following activities: providing one or more sample processing devices to a user (10); collection of sample materials by the user (20); loading of the sample materials into one or more of the sample processing devices (including, optionally, the loading of reagents with or separate from the sample materials) (30); sealing of the sample processing devices by the user (40); forwarding of the loaded sample processing devices to a processing facility by the user (50); processing of the loaded sample processing devices by the processing facility in accordance with any instructions from the user (60); providing results of the processing to the user by the processing facility (70); and destruction, archival, or return of the processed sample processing devices as desired by the user (80).

WO 03/058195 A3